

MARVEL

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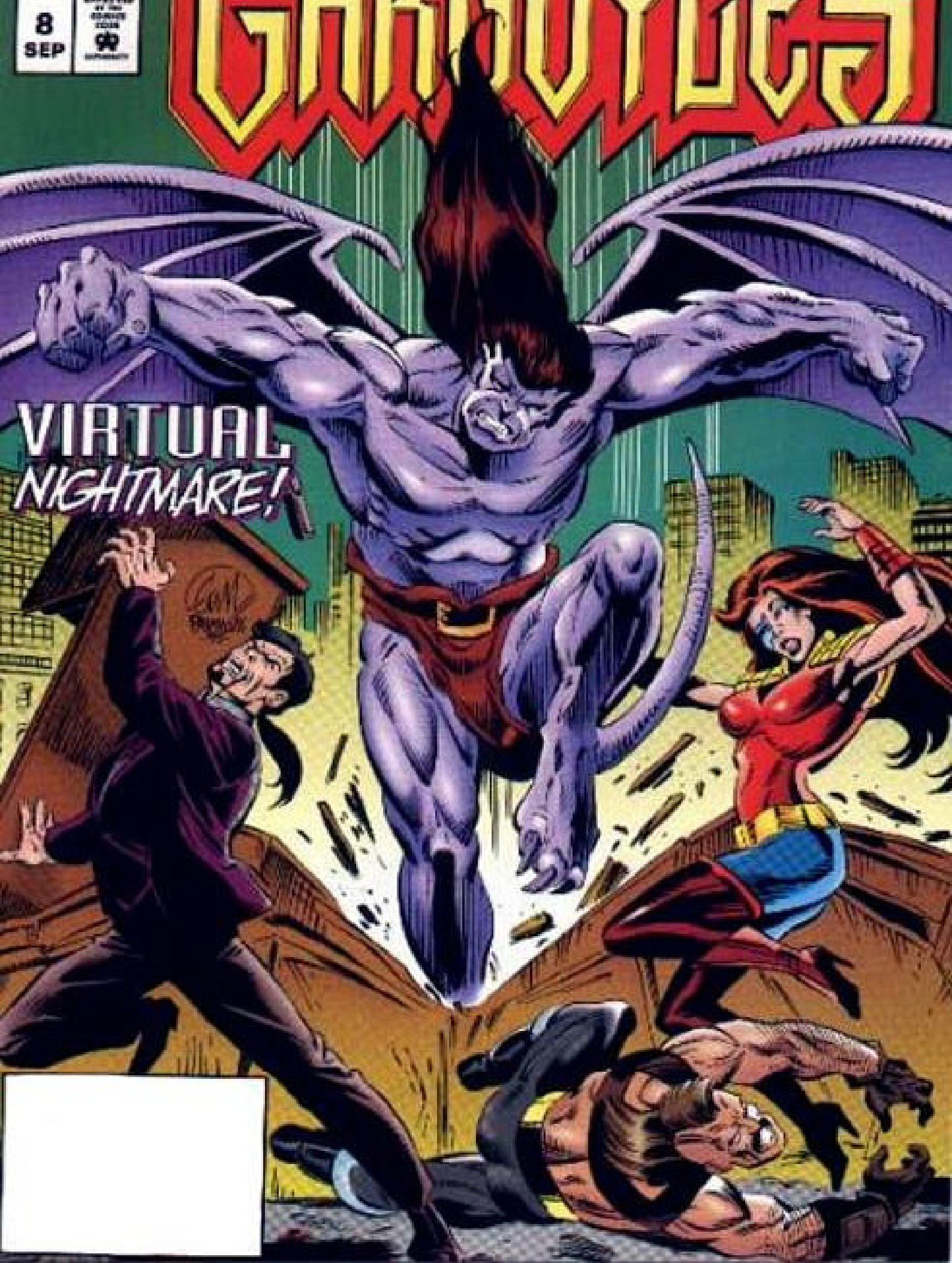
GARGOYLES



8
SEP

APPROVED BY THE
COMICS CODE
99

VIRTUAL
NIGHTMARE!





LATE NIGHT, IN A NEW
YORK CITY ALLEY...

...THE YOUNG GARGOYLE
WARRIOR, LEXINGTON,
THOUGH SURROUNDED BY
FRIEND AND FOES...

...HAS NEVER BEEN MORE
ALONE IN HIS LIFE!

NO! NO!
I KILLED
WOLF!!

GARGOYLES

TERROR

IN TIMES SQUARE

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I'M WITH YOU!

LET'S
HOOK UP
WITH THE
OTHERS!

I-I DON'T
KNOW IF I CAN
FACE THEM!



SURE I HATED WOLF,
BUT I NEVER MEANT TO
KILL ANYONE!



LET'S FOLLOW! THEY'LL
PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID
TO WOLF!

OH, THEY'LL
PAY ALL RIGHT!

HEY, DINGO,
THAT VIRTUAL
REALITY PROJECTOR
IS QUITE THE COOL
GIMMICK! IT FOOLED
FOX AND IT ALMOST
FOOLED ME!

WITH THIS
DEVICE IT WAS
A SIMPLE
MATTER TO FOG
UP THEIR PEANUT
BRAINS INTO
THINKING
THEY KILLED
ONE OF
US!

NOW ON
TO MORE
IMPORTANT
BUSINESS. LIKE
OUR ASSAULT
ON TIMES
SQUARE...

... AND
THE DEATH OF
KANATOS!

YEAH,
THAT WINGED
POLLYWOG WILL
PROBABLY KILL
HIMSELF OVER
THE GUILT!

AT THE GARGOYLES' ROOST...

IT WAS HORRIBLE! WE WERE SO HELPLESS!

YOU WERE WARNED NOT TO ACT ON YOUR OWN, LEXINGTON!

DON'T BE SO HARD ON THE LAD, GOLIATH.

HE HAS THE BLOOD OF A WARRIOR COURSEING THROUGH HIM! UNFORTUNATELY, DEATH IS OFTEN A CONSEQUENCE IN THE WAYS OF A WARRIOR.

WOLF LIVED BY VIOLENCE, AND BY VIOLENCE HE PASSED FROM US!

HRRUU?

AWW, THANKS FOR THE HUG, BRONX!

THERE'S STILL NO REPORT OF THE PACK ESCAPING FROM JAIL. I'M GOING TO CHECK IT OUT.

DON'T WORRY, LEXINGTON. YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME. WOLF DIED AS A RESULT OF HIS BLOODTHIRSTINESS!

TOMORROW IS A NEW DAY AND WE'LL ROUND UP THE REST OF THE PACK...

AS THE GARGOYLES SLEEP, A PENSIVE DAVID XANATOS WATCHES THE SUN RISE...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

THE PACK ESCAPES FROM JAIL, WITHOUT MY COMMAND, AND PROCEEDS TO RAID ONE OF MY COMPANIES!

AND THEN THAT STRANGE VISION I HAD OF MY FATHER*...

*ALL REVEALED LAST MONTH!—HILLY.

CAN ALL THIS BE SOMEHOW RELATED? I TRUST FOX ENOUGH TO KNOW SHE HAS THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL...

"...I JUST WISH SHE'D
LET ME IN ON IT!"

SEE, DETECTIVE
MAZAP? THE PACK ARE
SAFE AND SOUND,
BEHIND BARS!

I SEE IT,
BUT I DON'T
BELIEVE IT!

HOW
ARE YOU,
FOX?

SHUT
UP. GO
AWAY!

SHUT
UP. GO
AWAY!

YOU
WON'T GET
NOTHIN' OUTTA
HER! THAT'S ALL
SHE'S BEEN SAYIN'
TODAY!

LISTEN TO
ME, Y -- WHA?!
MY ARM WENT RIGHT
THROUGH HER!

WHAT'S
THIS ALL
ABOUT?

LOOKS
LIKE SOME SORT OF
PROJECTOR! I'M NO
EINSTEIN...

... BUT I'M
GUESSING IT'S PRO-
JECTING A SOPHISTICATED
HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF
FOX... AND THE REST OF
THE PACK IN THEIR
CELLS!

NICE
GOING, MATT!
AND I BET WE FIND
A CHIP IN IT THAT
EMITS "SHUT UP. GO
AWAY!" WHENEVER
IT HEARS A
VOICE!

WAS THERE ANY ELECTRONIC
SURVEILLANCE OF THE
PACK?

UH, Y'MEAN
LIKE VIDEO
TAPES?

ELISA,
CHECK THIS
OUT!

BACK IN MANHATTAN...

THIS PLACE SUCKS!
AT LEAST WE HAD
CABLE TV IN
PRISON!

CUT YOUR
WHINING! IF YOU
HADN'T LURED THOSE
FLYING GEEHAWES TO
OUR LAST PLACE,
WE'D STILL BE
THERE!

NOT
THAT THAT
PLACE WAS
ANY PRIZE,
EITHER.

IF THIS GUY
WITH THE VIRTUAL
REALITY TECH, VR-X,
IS SO HOT, WHY'S HE
STICK LIES IN ALBANY
DUMPS?

AFTER TONIGHT, WE'LL
HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO
LIVE ANYWHERE IN ANY STYLE
YOU WANT. WITH VR-X'S
AMAZING INVENTIONS HE'LL
BE HAILED AS A REVOLU-
TIONARY!

IMAGINE- HE
CAN INFLUENCE
ANYONE'S SENSES
INTO SEEING,
HEARING, EVEN
SMELLING, WITH-
OUT GOGGLES,
GLOVES, OR
BULKY
MACHINERY.

MAYBE WE
CAN USE THE DEVICE
TO THINK WE'RE IN
THE PARK PLAZA
HOTEL!

I'D FEEL
BETTER IF WE
MET THIS VR-X
CHARACTER.

I DON'T LIKE
TAKING ORDERS
FROM ANYONE...
LET ALONE FROM
SOMEONE I DON'T
EVEN KNOW!

BUT
YOU TRUST ME,
EH, MATES?

YOU'LL
BE MEETING
HIM LATER TODAY.
BELIEVE ME, HE'S
JUST AS WARY
AS YOU!

I THINK YOU
SHOULD HAVE SOME
COMPANY,
"DINGO"...

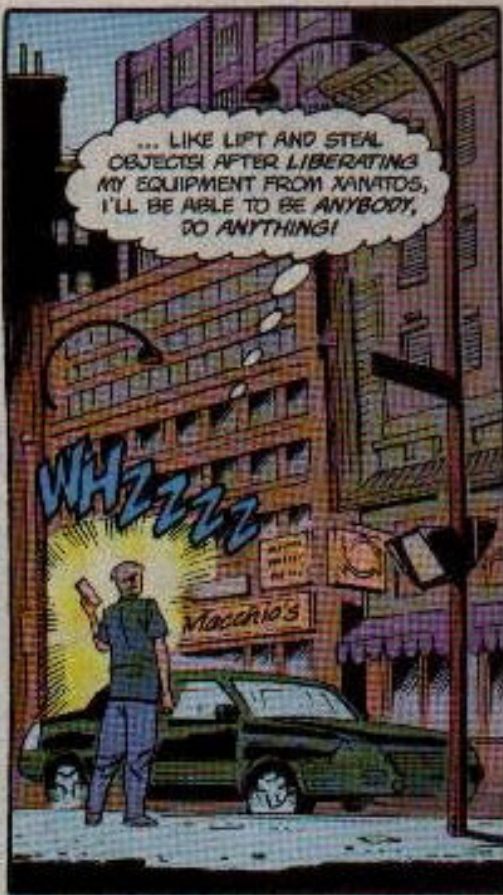


WHY! IT'S GETTING HOT IN THERE! I WONDER IF USING THE PACK WAS SUCH A GOOD IDEA? THEY'RE GETTING LEERY...



BUT THEY WERE NECESSARY! I NEEDED THEIR BRUTE FORCE FOR LAST NIGHT'S RAID ON THE SCARAB CORPORATION.

THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS VIRTUAL REALITY CANNOT DO...



... LIKE LIFT AND STEAL OBJECTS! AFTER LIBERATING MY EQUIPMENT FROM XANATOS, I'LL BE ABLE TO BE ANYBODY, DO ANYTHING!



XANATOS THOUGHT HE COULD FOOL A NAIVE, YOUNG TECHNICIAN WITH HIS CONTRACTUAL MIMBO-JUMBO.

XANATOS WILL PAY FOR STEALING ALL MY PATENTS. TONIGHT ALL MY YEARS OF HARD WORK WILL PAY OFF BIG TIME!



"ALL THAT SELFLESS WORK IN HOLOGRAM AND VR TECHNOLOGY PRECLUDED MY HAVING A NORMAL LIFE.

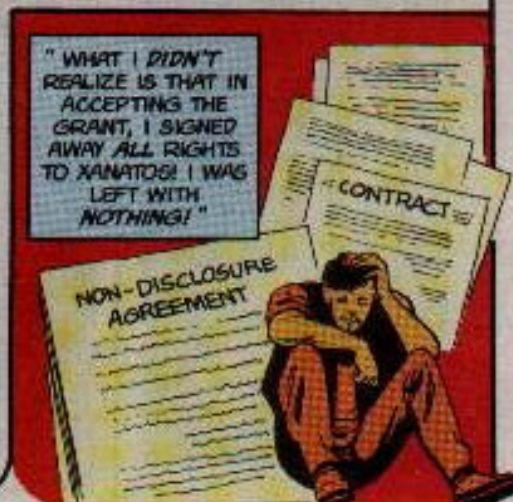
I SACRIFICED MY TEEN YEARS, UNTIL FINALLY..."



I DID IT! I'VE CREATED A 3D HOLOGRAM FIELD THAT CAN BE SEEN BY THE NAKED EYE!



"BASED ON MY SUCCESS, I RECEIVED A GENEROUS GRANT FROM XANATOS'S SCARAB CORPORATION TO FUND FURTHER VR RESEARCH.



"WHAT I DIDN'T REALIZE IS THAT IN ACCEPTING THE GRANT, I SIGNED AWAY ALL RIGHTS TO XANATOS! I WAS LEFT WITH NOTHING!"

NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

"THEN IT HIT ME..."



"... WITH THE PACK IN JAIL AND DINGO IN EUROPE, I COULD ASSUME DINGO'S IDENTITY AND CON THE PACK INTO HELPING ME!"

"WITH THEIR CUNNING, THEY COULD HELP ME STEAL THE MICROCHIPS SCARAB ENGINEERED FROM MY PLANS..."



"... AND NOW WITH THOSE CHIPS, NOTHING WILL STOP MY REVENGE ON XANATOS."

FIRST, DRIVE HIM INSANE, THEN TAKE OVER HIS IDENTITY AND HIS FINANCIAL EMPIRE!



THAT VR VISIT FROM HIS "FATHER" LAST NIGHT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING!

JUST AS I SUSPECTED!

THAT WASN'T DINGO! HIS VR MAY BE ABLE TO FOOL MY SENSES, BUT NOT MY INSTINCT!

I'VE BEEN SITTING ON THIS LONG ENOUGH..!





"... IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE CALL!"

... I SEE.



AHHH, THAT DOES EXPLAIN A FEW THINGS.

OF COURSE, I WAS CURIOUS. THIS INFORMATION DOES CHANGE MY PLANS FOR THE EVENING... A BIT!

THANK YOU FOR CALLING AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU LATER.



COME IN, OWEN.



SORRY TO INTERRUPT SIR, BUT YOU HAVE A VISITOR WHO INSISTS--



DARN RIGHT I INSIST, BURNETT! GOT A MINUTE, XANATOS?

ALWAYS, FOR YOU, DETECTIVE MAZA.



IT INVOLVES THE ROBBERY AT SCARAB LAST NIGHT... AND THE PACK!

THIS VIDEO WAS TAPED RIGHT BEFORE THE PACK ESCAPED. WHEN I SAW IT, I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!

HERE YOU SEE WOLF AND FOX IN JAIL TALKING TO THIS KID LIKE HE'S DINGO. LATER THAT NIGHT, I CAME ACROSS DINGO AND THE REST OF THE PACK RAIDING SCARAB.

THE ONLY THING IS, INTERPOL REPORTS THAT DINGO IS STILL ON THE LOOSE IN EUROPE. THEIR ESCAPE WAS COVERED BY USING SOME HOLOGRAPHIC DEVICE.

THIS KID IS USING HOLOGRAMS OR SOME TECHNOLOGY TO FOOL THE PACK INTO HELPING HIM. WHO IS HE, XANATOS?

I DON'T KNOW.



I KNOW YOUR CONNECTION WITH THE PACK. IS THIS ANOTHER SCHEME OF YOURS?



MY DEAR DETECTIVE, I AM SIMPLY A VICTIM OF A ROBBERY.

AS A PUBLIC SERVANT, SHOULDN'T YOU BE QUESTIONING THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS CRIME THEMSELVES?



BESIDES, A MERE HOLOGRAM COULDN'T FOOL THE PACK. THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE GOING ON HERE.

A MAN OF MY POSITION HAS MANY ENEMIES, AND MANY FOOLS THAT HAVE GROUNDFLESS VENDETTAS. I'M SORRY. I CAN'T HELP YOU.



"CAN'T" OR "WON'T" HELP, KANATOS?



AS USUAL, I THINK YOU KNOW MORE THAN YOU'RE TELLING ME.



IF YOU'RE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED THEN I FEEL I HAVE TO WARN YOU...



... THE PACK ARE ACTING QUITE DIFFERENTLY AND EVEN YOU MIGHT BE IN DANGER!



I'M GOING TO BE DIGGING DEEPER INTO THIS CASE. IF I WERE YOU, I'D STAY AWAY FROM TIMES SQUARE TONIGHT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN. YOU DON'T MIND SEEING YOURSELF TO THE DOOR?



HMMPH!

COME OWEN, WE MUST PREPARE FOR TONIGHT'S EVENT.

DUSK, AT
THE 23RD
PRECINCT'S
FAVORITE
WATERING
HOLE...

RED BALL GRILL

HERE
YA GO, DETECTIVE
MAZA...

FIFTEEN
MEDIUM RARE BURGERS,
FIVE CHILI DOGS AND SEVEN
ORDERS OF CHEESE FRIES.
SHEESH, I DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOU PUT
IT ALL!

IT'S NOT
ALL FOR ME, DICK!
I HAPPEN TO HAVE A
LOT OF HUNGRY
FRIENDS! SEE YA!

OH! THERE'S
HAILE O'CONNER...
AND WHO'S THAT
BLONDE WITH
HIM?

'HMMPH!
DOESN'T MATTER TO
ME. I SHOULD HAVE
REALIZED HE HAD A
GIRLFRIEND...

... BUT
WHY DOES IT
BOTTER ME SO
MUCH?

HEY!
ELBA!

IS IT BECAUSE
IT MAKES ME REALIZE I
HAVE NO LIFE OF MY OWN
OUTSIDE THE FORCE AND
THE GARGOYLES?

WE'LL BETTER
GET THESE BURGERS
UP TO THE CLOCK
TOWER...

"... THE BOYS WILL BE
MAKING SOON."

SKN-KN-KRACK!!

THANKS
FOR THE PEP
TALK, GOLIATH... I
FEEL A LITTLE
BETTER!

AND THE
INFORMATION I HAVE
WILL MAKE YOU FEEL
EVEN BETTER!

WE HAVEN'T FOUND
HIDE NOR HAIR OF WOLF, AND
I VISITED THEIR JAIL CELLS--
IN THEIR PLACE WERE
HOLOGRAMS.

AND AFTER
ELISA FILLS
THEM IN ON
THE REST OF
HER DAY...

MAYBE YOU
AND BROADWAY
WERE FIGHTING
HOLOGRAMS,
LEXINGTON!

HEY, I WASN'T
FIGHTING
HOLOGRAMS...
THEY WERE
REAL!

BUT, MAYBE IF
THEY HAVE
HOLOGRAMS,
THEY WERE
VIRTUALLY
REAL!

REGARDLESS,
XANATOS APPEARS
TO BE THE TARGET
OF THE PACK'S
CAMPAIGN...

... WE'LL KEEP
A KEEN EYE ON HIM
TONIGHT.

BAH! THAT
XANATOS! IF WE'RE
NOT BATTLING HIM,
WE'RE BATTLING
FOR HIM!

ELSEWHERE,
AN EXOTIC
PENTHOUSE
SUITE...

THESE
SCROLLS
ARE FASCINATING!

THERE IS NO
OTHER EXPLANATION
FOR MY COMING ACROSS
IT THAN... FATE!

WE HAVE A
THOUSAND AGENTS ALL
OVER THE WORLD TRAINED
IN MYSTIC AND MARTIAL ARTS,
AT YOUR COMPLETE
DISPOSAL.

ACCORDING
TO THE SCROLLS, WITH
MY APPEARANCE, THE TIME IS
COME FOR THE CLIMAX OF
YOUR MISSION!

YOU
ARE PLEASED,
WINGED ONE?

VERY MUCH,
GONG LI... AND
YOU MAY CALL ME
DEMONA.

THESE
SCROLLS DO INDEED
PROPHESY OUR
MEETING.

WE HAVE
WAITED CENTURIES
FOR YOUR ARRIVAL...
DEMONA.

OVER THE YEARS,
OUR CULT HAS BRANCHED
OUT AND PROSPERED. WE
ARE NOW THE PREMIER
CRIMINAL ASSOCIATION
OF ASIA.

YES. THE
TIME IS NIGH
FOR THE BIRTH OF
A NEW WINGED
ONE!

AND WITH
IT, THE BEGINNING
OF THE END OF
HUMANITY!

DEMONA'S ARE NOT THE ONLY
EVIL THOUGHTS GENERATED
TONIGHT...

HERE IT IS,
MATES! THIS BABY
IS THE ANSWER
TO ALL OUR
DREAMS!

HMMPH!
HOW MANY GDS CAN
YOU STACK IN IT
AT A TIME?

VERY FUNNY!
VR-X TOOK THE 'CHIPS
WE SWIPED AND BUILT THIS
SOUPED-UP VERSION OF
HIS VIRTUAL REALITY
PROJECTOR!

THIS
PROJECTS A
STRONGER VR FIELD
THAN THE OTHER
REMOTE.

WITH THIS,
WE'LL BE ABLE TO
MAKE THOUSANDS SEE
WHATEVER WE WANT
TO AND THERE'S
MORE...

... WE CAN FOCUS ON AN INDIVIDUAL, FLOOD
THEIR BRAIN WITH A TORRENT OF CONTRA-
DICTING INFORMATION, ASSAULT THEIR
SENSES, AND DRIVE THEM
INSANE!

SO WHY ARE
WE ATTACKING
XANATOSP?

A DEMONSTRATION!
THERE'S AN ASIAN
CRIMINAL ORGANI-
ZATION WILLING TO
PAY BILLIONS
FOR THIS TECH-
NOLOGY--

IF IT
WORKS!

OH, IT
WILL
WORK.

WELL THEN, I
GUESS WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE A PRETTY FUN
NIGHT TONIGHT,
EH, "MATE"?





MAN, YOU THINK THE PACK HAS THE CHANCES TO APPEAR IN THE MIDDLE OF TIMES SQUARE?!

AH, YOU KNOW THOSE JOKERS ARE PUBLICITY JUNKIES. THEY'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET IN THE MEDIA!

BESIDES, THEY'RE PROBABLY HIDING SAFELY BEHIND SOME INNOCENT LOOKING HOLOGRAMS!



HAI! HERE COMES THE BUSKICK NOW!



GREETINGS, AND WELCOME TO THE FIRST TECH FOR TOTS CHARITY EVENT!



I, OF ALL PEOPLE, KNOW THE BENEFITS OF PROPERLY APPLIED TECHNOLOGY...



THERE THEY ARE! THE PACK ARE DISGUISED AS THOSE COPS HEADING TOWARDS XANATOS!

LET'S MOVE!



WITH INSTINCTUAL STEALTH, THE GARGOYLES DESCEND ON THEIR PREY...













WELL, HELLO THERE!

OH, IT'S REALLY ME THIS TIME. THANKS TO A CONCERNED CITIZEN--

YOU MEAN FOX?

WHY, YES! THANKS TO HER I WAS ABLE TO PLAN A STRATEGY TO HELP CONTAIN THIS THREAT THE POLICE COULDN'T HANDLE!

THOUGH, FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT GRUDGE THIS FORMER FREELANCER COULD HAVE AGAINST ME!



NATURALLY, I WON'T BE PRESSING CHARGES AGAINST THE PACK, SINCE THEY WERE COERCED INTO RAIDING MY CONCERN.



OH, BUT THEY'LL STILL GET CHARGED FOR THEIR JAIL BREAK!

I ONLY CONSENTED TO ESCAPING TO KEEP THE REST OF THE PACK OUT OF TROUBLE. I WANT TO DO MY TIME AND GO STRAIGHT!

RIIIGHT!



AH! NEW YORK'S FINEST ARE FINALLY ARRIVING! I SUGGEST YOU GARGOYLES MAKE YOURSELVES SCARCE.

I'M SURE DETECTIVE MAZA IS CAPABLE OF HOLDING THE PACK UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE.

THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.



HE'S RIGHT, GOLIAH. YOU GUYS BETTER SPLIT.



A WORD TO THE WISE, XANATOS...

... SOMEDAY YOUR SCHEMES WILL BLOW UP IN YOUR FACE, AND YOU WILL HAVE A LOT TO ANSWER FOR!

GREAT. WE'LL GET BACK IN TIME FOR LETTER-MAN!



ELISA WATCHES THE GARGOYLES DEPART AS THE POLICE PULL UP.

SHE NOTES A GLANCE BETWEEN FOX AND XANATOS...

...A FLUSH OF WARMTH IS EXCHANGED BETWEEN THEM.

IN THIS CHAOTIC WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS TIME FOR RELATIONSHIPS...

FOR EVERYONE IT SEEMS, BUT NOT FOR DETECTIVE SECOND CLASS, ELISA MAZA, N.Y.P.D.

NEXT MONTH:
THE **AWESOME** RETURN OF ARTIST
AMANDA CONNER! AND...

WHAT
ABOUT

DEMONA?!